

SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SR Reports

FROM []

SR/3-PP

SUBJECT : Information on the Stanislavskaya Oblast in the Ukraine
SOURCE : Letter received from Ukrainian teacher in Poland

A female Ukrainian teacher in Poland receiving a permit to visit her sister in the Ukraine in the summer of 1957, traveled to Kolomiya and Hvizdets, Stanislavskaya Oblast, Ukraine. She spent one month there and wrote the following letter to another sister in the United States:

1. The city streets of Kolomiya have been widened and paved, and at the crossing of Tarnovski and Yahaylonska streets, a square has been established. Traffic between the villages and city is by bus; horses are not seen in the streets.

2. During the years 1944-45, there was a great shortage of food. The situation is now improved somewhat. Leather is hard to get, being bought out by party members and administration employees the minute it appears in the stores. In 1944 many Russians, party members, arrived in the city, taking over all the houses of Jews who were killed by the Nazis and of Ukrainians deported to Siberia. These houses were nationalized and sold very cheaply to the party members.

3. There are three motion picture houses and one stage theater in the city. Signs are in Russian, and in the stores Russian is used. All main employees in the city are still Russian. Of fifteen thousand Ukrainians in the city, only one thousand escaped deportation. Sentences were ten to fifteen years for any small violation. Many died there, and those who returned are physically ruined.

4. Both Polish churches are closed. In the Ukrainian church a former janitor is the priest.

5. Source while in the Ukraine met a woman from Kolimiya who had visited Khabarovsk and had obtained permission to bring her niece back with her. The niece, a fourteen-year old girl in the seventh grade in Kolomiya, is taught English and one hour per week Ukrainian. The rest of her studies are conducted entirely in the Russian language.

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